

# **State/County Special Assistance Program**

Presentation to Blue Ribbon Commission on  
Transitions to Community Living

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September 5, 2012

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# SA-ACH Program

- Provides a cash payment to supplement a person's own income to pay the cost of room and board in certain licensed facilities
- Licensed facilities include:
  - Adult care homes and family care homes licensed under G.S. 131D, and
  - Supervised living facilities licensed under G.S. 122C and 10A NCAC 27G .5600 A and C

# SA In-Home Program

- SA In-Home (SA/IH) provides an alternative to placement in an Adult or Family Care Home for those who can live safely at home with appropriate services
- Allows recipients more choice and control over managing daily lives
- Provides cash payment to address identified needs

# SA Budget

- Total SA expenditures for SFY 11-12:  
\$140,750,378
  - ACH: \$130,833,665 (93%)
  - SA/IH: \$9,916,713 (7%)
- Certified Budget for SFY 11-12 and 12-13  
\$140,427,088
- Payments to recipients are 50% state and 50% county funds



# Special Assistance Active Cases by Setting August 2012

| SETTING  | ACTIVE CASES  | PERCENTAGE OF ACTIVE CASES |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|
| Adult Care Home                                | 13,404        | 53%                        |
| Family Care Home                               | 2,340         | 9%                         |
| Special Care Unit                              | 3,010         | 12%                        |
| Supervised Living/<br>Group Home Mental Health | 2,081         | 8%                         |
| Supervised Living/Group Home IDD               | 2,405         | 9%                         |
| Special Assistance In-Home                     | 2,290         | 9%*                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   | <b>25,530</b> | <b>100%</b>                |

\*percentage cannot exceed 15%.

# SA Active Cases by Age Group

| SA Program                         | Age 18-64     | Percentage of total 18-64 | Age 65 and older | Percentage of total 65 and older |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adult Care Homes/Supervised Living | 11,437        | 45%                       | 8,792            | 34%                              |
| Special Care Unit                  | 226           | 1%                        | 2,785            | 11%                              |
| Special Assistance In-Home         | 1,163         | 5%                        | 1,127            | 4%                               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>12,826</b> |                           | <b>12,704</b>    |                                  |

# SA Rates

- SA maximum rates and recipient personal needs allowance established by General Assembly
  - Basic rate \$1,182/month
  - Special care unit rate \$1,515/month
  - Personal needs allowance \$46/month

# SA Program Rate History

| Maximum SA Rate                   |                 | Maximum Special Care/Alzheimer's Unit Rate | Personal Needs Allowance | Effective Date      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Ambulatory                        | Semi-Ambulatory |  |                          |                     |
| \$889                             | \$928           |  | \$25                     | 1993                |
| \$938                             | \$979           |  | \$27                     | 1994                |
| \$975                             | \$1,017         |  | \$31                     | 1995                |
| <b>One Basic Rate Established</b> |                 |  |                          |                     |
| \$844                             |                 |  | \$31                     | 1996                |
| \$874                             |                 |  | \$31                     | 1996-1997           |
| \$893                             |                 |  | \$31                     | Oct. 1997           |
| \$915                             |                 |  | \$31                     | July 1998           |
| \$956                             |                 |  | \$36                     | Oct. 1998           |
| \$982                             |                 |  | \$36                     | Oct. 1999           |
| \$1,062                           |                 |  | \$36                     | Oct. 2000           |
| \$1,091                           |                 |  | \$36                     | Oct. 2001           |
| \$1,091                           |                 |  | \$36                     | Oct. 2002           |
| \$1,066                           |                 |  | \$46                     | Oct. 2003           |
| \$1,084                           |                 |  | \$46                     | Oct. 2004           |
|                                   |                 | Special Care Unit Rate Established         |                          | Effective Oct. 2005 |
| \$1,118                           |                 | \$1,515                                    | \$46                     | Oct. 2005           |
| \$1,148                           |                 | \$1,515                                    | \$46                     | Jan. 2007           |
| \$1,173                           |                 | \$1,515                                    | \$46                     | Oct. 2007           |
| \$1,207                           |                 | \$1,515                                    | \$46                     | Jan. 2009           |
| \$1,182                           |                 | \$1,515                                    | \$46                     | Oct. 2009           |

# SA Payment

- Payment is based on a person's total countable monthly income
- Payment supplements the person's income up to \$1,182
- Personal needs allowance of \$46 is added to this payment
- Example:
  - $\$1,182 \text{ (SA basic rate)} + \$46 = \$1,228 - \$700 \text{ (monthly income)} = \$528 \text{ SA payment}$

# SA Eligibility

Must:

- Meet certain income thresholds
- Meet resource (assets) limit of \$2,000
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Meet State residence requirements

# Eligibility

- Have physician documentation (FL-2) indicating need for ACH level of care; and
- Be 65 years of age or older, or if age 18-64, must meet Social Security definition for disability or legally blind
- Eligibility is determined by county departments of social services

# What Is Difference between SA ACH and SA/IH Eligibility?

## ➤ SA ACH

- All persons who apply and are eligible, receive the payment (“entitlement”)
- Income threshold for Basic SA is \$1,228 (132% of FPL)
- Medicaid is automatic with SA eligibility
- Must reside in a licensed SA eligible facility
- All counties participate
- Payment is used for room and board

## ➤ SA/IH

- Must first qualify for full Medicaid
- Income threshold is \$931 for full Medicaid (100% of FPL)
- Reside in private living
- DHHS establishes slot allocation formula for counties per SL 2012-142
- Use of the payment is based on individual needs



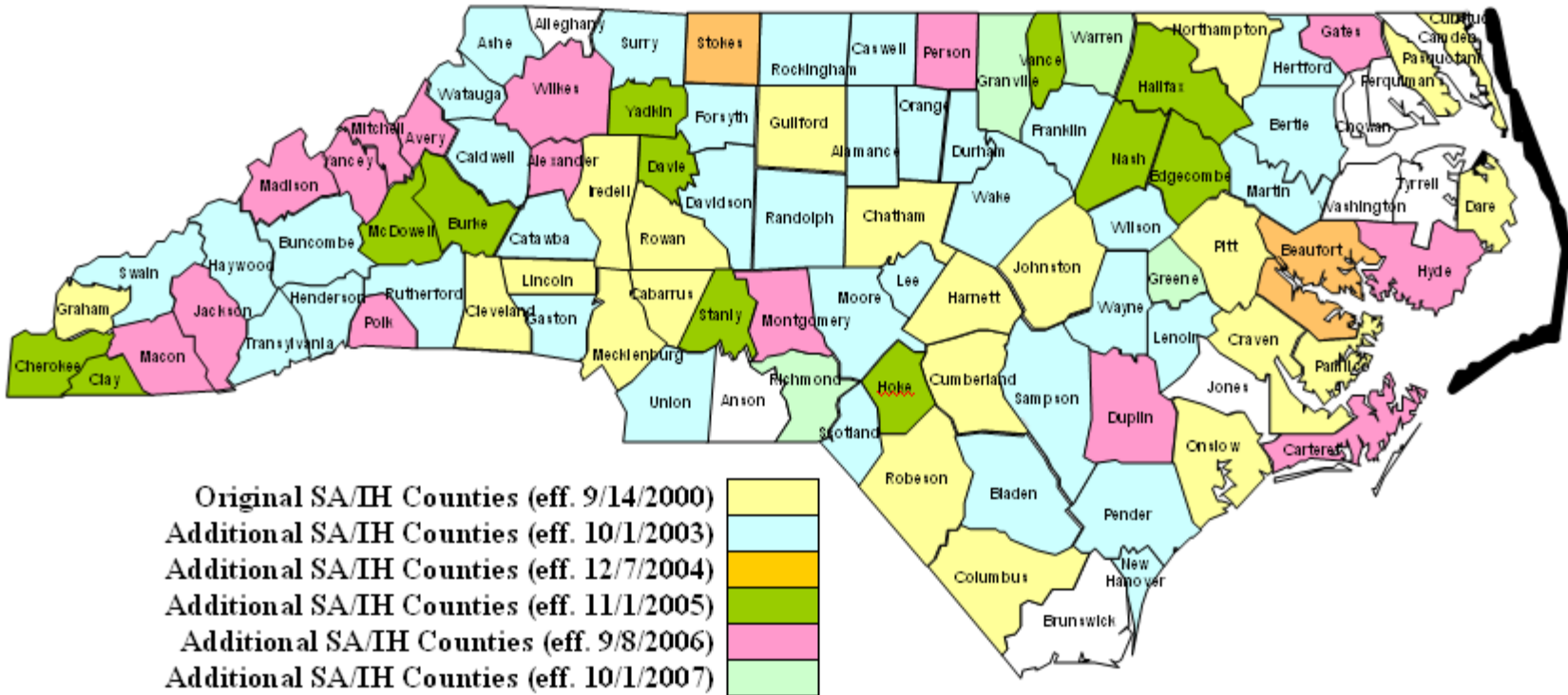
# How are SA/IH Payments Used?

- Help with cost of housing (rent, utilities, critical repairs)
- Food and nutritional supplements
- Making home accessible (ramps, grab bars)
- Clothing
- Medicaid co-pays
- Over the counter medications, including incontinence supplies
- Durable medical equipment not covered by Medicaid
- Personal assistance in the home
- Respite services to relieve informal caregivers

# SA/IH County Participation

- Ninety-one DSSs currently participating
- 3,111 slots allocated with 2,290 filled as of August 2012

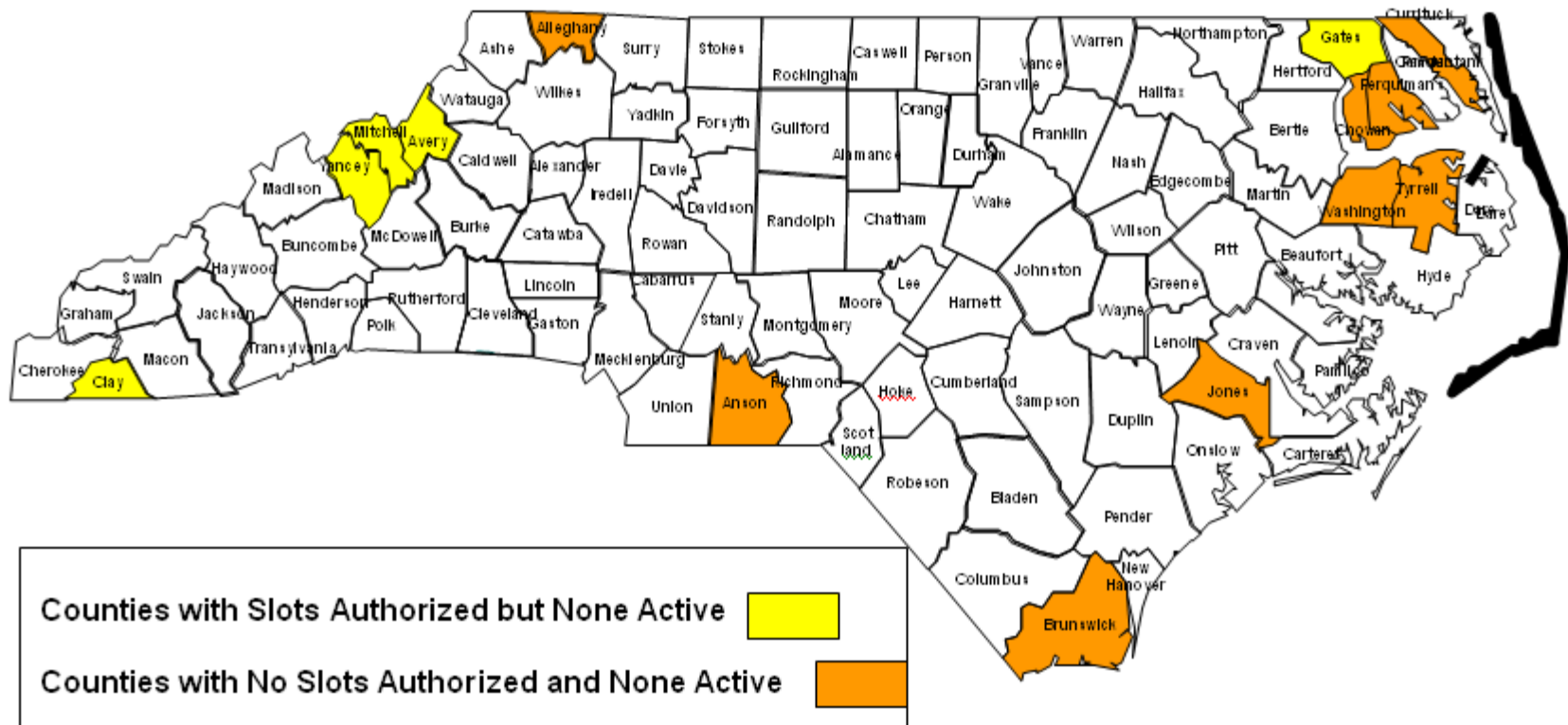
## August 2012



# SA/IH Participating Counties

- Alamance
- Alexander
- Ashe
- Avery
- Beaufort
- Bertie
- Bladen
- Buncombe
- Burke
- Cabarrus
- Caldwell
- Carteret
- Caswell
- Catawba
- Chatham
- Cherokee
- Clay
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Craven
- Cumberland
- Currituck
- Dare
- Davidson
- Davie
- Duplin
- Durham
- Edgecombe
- Forsyth
- Franklin
- Granville
- Gaston
- Gates
- Graham
- Greene
- Guilford
- Halifax
- Harnett
- Haywood
- Henderson
- Hertford
- Hoke
- Hyde
- Iredell
- Jackson
- Johnston
- Lee
- Lenoir
- Lincoln
- Macon
- Madison
- Martin
- McDowell
- Mecklenburg
- Mitchell
- Montgomery
- Moore
- Nash
- New Hanover
- Northampton
- Onslow
- Orange
- Pamlico
- Pasquotank
- Pender
- Person
- Pitt
- Polk
- Randolph
- Richmond
- Robeson
- Rockingham
- Rowan
- Rutherford
- Sampson
- Scotland
- Stanly
- Stokes
- Surry
- Swain
- Transylvania
- Union
- Vance
- Wake
- Warren
- Watauga
- Wayne
- Wilkes
- Wilson
- Yadkin
- Yancey

# County DSSs with No Active Special Assistance In-Home Slots August 2012



## Active and Allocated SA/IH Slots by County

| County Name | Total Allocated 8-1-12 | Active Cases 8-1-12 |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Alamance    | 12                     | 11                  |
| Alexander   | 10                     | 4                   |
| Alleghany   | 0                      | 0                   |
| Anson       | 0                      | 0                   |
| Ashe        | 25                     | 21                  |
| Avery       | 3                      | 0                   |
| Beaufort    | 70                     | 42                  |
| Bertie      | 10                     | 2                   |
| Bladen      | 31                     | 23                  |
| Brunswick   | 0                      | 0                   |
| Buncombe    | 36                     | 35                  |
| Burke       | 10                     | 6                   |
| Cabarrus    | 170                    | 105                 |
| Caldwell    | 30                     | 28                  |
| Camden      | 0                      | 0                   |
| Carteret    | 60                     | 27                  |
| Caswell     | 10                     | 10                  |
| Catawba     | 75                     | 35                  |
| Chatham     | 29                     | 15                  |
| Cherokee    | 20                     | 11                  |
| Chowan      | 0                      | 0                   |
| Clay        | 10                     | 0                   |
| Cleveland   | 100                    | 84                  |
| Columbus    | 20                     | 18                  |
| Craven      | 15                     | 12                  |

| County Name | Total Allocated 8-1-12 | Active Cases 8-1-12 |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Cumberland  | 80                     | 75                  |
| Currituck   | 12                     | 12                  |
| Dare        | 24                     | 23                  |
| Davidson    | 20                     | 16                  |
| Davie       | 17                     | 17                  |
| Duplin      | 20                     | 12                  |
| Durham      | 136                    | 125                 |
| Edgecombe   | 16                     | 9                   |
| Forsyth     | 60                     | 58                  |
| Franklin    | 42                     | 42                  |
| Gaston      | 46                     | 46                  |
| Gates       | 3                      | 0                   |
| Graham      | 57                     | 34                  |
| Granville   | 10                     | 5                   |
| Greene      | 10                     | 10                  |
| Guilford    | 85                     | 80                  |
| Halifax     | 65                     | 52                  |
| Harnett     | 50                     | 48                  |
| Haywood     | 38                     | 30                  |
| Henderson   | 150                    | 126                 |
| Hertford    | 23                     | 16                  |
| Hoke        | 5                      | 4                   |
| Hyde        | 8                      | 3                   |
| Iredell     | 19                     | 18                  |
| Jackson     | 6                      | 6                   |

| County Name | Total Allocated 8-1-12 | Active Cases 8-1-12 |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Johnston    | 60                     | 34                  |
| Jones       | 0                      | 0                   |
| Lee         | 26                     | 7                   |
| Lenoir      | 20                     | 16                  |
| Lincoln     | 40                     | 25                  |
| Macon       | 4                      | 1                   |
| Madison     | 3                      | 2                   |
| Martin      | 10                     | 9                   |
| McDowell    | 40                     | 32                  |
| Mecklenburg | 100                    | 48                  |
| Mitchell    | 3                      | 0                   |
| Montgomery  | 40                     | 29                  |
| Moore       | 30                     | 12                  |
| Nash        | 25                     | 23                  |
| New Hanover | 50                     | 43                  |
| Northampton | 35                     | 29                  |
| Onslow      | 37                     | 31                  |
| Orange      | 20                     | 18                  |
| Pamlico     | 5                      | 2                   |
| Pasquotank  | 45                     | 44                  |
| Pender      | 16                     | 13                  |
| Perquimans  | 0                      | 0                   |
| Person      | 7                      | 5                   |
| Pitt        | 16                     | 10                  |
| Polk        | 4                      | 1                   |

| County Name  | Total Allocated 8-1-12 | Active Cases 8-1-12 |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Randolph     | 30                     | 22                  |
| Richmond     | 4                      | 3                   |
| Robeson      | 176                    | 96                  |
| Rockingham   | 20                     | 15                  |
| Rowan        | 30                     | 15                  |
| Rutherford   | 15                     | 9                   |
| Sampson      | 20                     | 7                   |
| Scotland     | 6                      | 5                   |
| Stanly       | 6                      | 5                   |
| Stokes       | 100                    | 81                  |
| Surry        | 30                     | 24                  |
| Swain        | 10                     | 3                   |
| Transylvania | 16                     | 15                  |
| Tyrell       | 0                      | 0                   |
| Union        | 18                     | 9                   |
| Vance        | 47                     | 45                  |
| Wake         | 89                     | 67                  |
| Warren       | 8                      | 7                   |
| Washington   | 0                      | 0                   |
| Watauga      | 28                     | 25                  |
| Wayne        | 20                     | 19                  |
| Wilkes       | 5                      | 3                   |
| Wilson       | 35                     | 22                  |
| Yadkin       | 12                     | 3                   |
| Yancey       | 2                      | 0                   |

Total Allocated Slots: 3,111

Total Filled Slots: 2,290

# SL 2012-142, Section 10.23

- Equalizes SA/IH payments with SA payments for persons living in adult care facilities (previously 75% for SA/IH payments; effective July 1, 2012 payments 100%)
- Allows DHHS Secretary to waive 15% statewide cap (currently 3,830 slots) for SA/IH slots effective February 15, 2013



# SL 2012-142, Section 10.23

- Requires county DSS participation in SA/IH Program
  - Participating DSSs with unfilled slots effective February 15, 2013, must maintain at a minimum, the average number of filled slots during SFY 2011-2012.
  - DSSs with assigned slots and no filled slots must begin participating effective February 15, 2013, by filling all the their assigned slots.
  - DSSs with no established slots must begin participating effective February 15, 2013. The Division of Aging and Adult Services has established the slot allocations for these counties



# Activities to Implement SL 2012-142, Section 10.23

- Orientation and training sessions in September and October for DSSs beginning participation in SA/IH Program
- Publishing slot allocation and active cases by month by county on Division of Aging and Adult Services website
- Monitor slot utilization for all 100 DSSs based on legislative requirements
- Establish formula to determine need for additional slots in all 100 DSSs
- Assess need for DHHS Secretary to waive the 15% cap on SA/IH slots statewide